

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-09 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

SCCT-01 SAM-01 /106 W

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O P 130213Z JUL 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8259

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU PRIORITY

USLO PEKING PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 4 USUN 2849

DEPT PASS OAU POSTS AS DESIRED

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, UG, IS, US

SUBJECT: SECURITY COUNCIL: UGANDA RESCUE

1. FOLLOWING IS GOV SCRANTON'S STATEMENT AS PREPARED

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FOR DELIVER IN SC, AFTERNOON JULY 12. TEXT AS DELIVERED WILL

BE FORWARDED DEPARTMENT JULY 13. QUOTE
THIS COUNCIL HAS BEEN CONVENED TO DISCUSS THE
MILITARY OPERATION OF ISRAEL TO RESCUE THE HOSTAGES
HELD BY AIR HIJACKERS AT ENTEBBE AIRPORT IN UGANDA.
THE GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA HAS CONDEMNED ISRAEL FOR WHAT
ITS TERMED "AGGRESSION AGAINST UGANDA." ISRAEL HAD BEEN
ACCUSED OF VIOLATING THE TERRITORIAL SOVEREIGNTY AND INTE-
GRITY OF UGANDA, OF WANTONLY DESTROYING SECTIONS
OF ENTEBBE AIRPORT, AND OF KILLING A NUMBER OF UGANDAN
SOLDIERS. THESE ARE GRAVE CHARGES AND IT IS CLEARLY
THE DUTY OF THIS COUNCIL TO CONSIDER THEM IN LIGHT OF
THE FACTS AND INTERNATIONAL LAW.

AS MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL KNOW, I HAVE SPOKEN
SEVERAL TIMES EARLIER THIS YEAR IN THIS COUNCIL
DEFENDING THE PRINCIPLE OF TERRITORIAL SOVEREIGNTY
IN AFRICA. I REAFFIRM IT TODAY. IN ADDITION TO THAT
PRINCIPLE, THERE ARE OTHER BASIC PRINCIPLES AND ISSUES
AT STAKE IN THE QUESTION BEFORE US TODAY. WE MUST BE
DEEPLY CONCERNED WITH THE PROBLEM OF AIR PIRACY AND
THE CALLOUS AND PERNICIOUS USE OF INNOCENT PEOPLE AS
HOSTAGES TO PROMOTE POLITICAL ENDS. THIS COUNCIL CANNOT
FORGET THAT THE ISRAELI OPERATION IN UGANDA WOULD NEVER
HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED OR COME ABOUT, HAD THE HIJACKING
OF THE AIR FRANCE FLIGHT FROM ATHENS NOT TAKEN PLACE.

LET US REVIEW THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE
ISRAELI ACTION AT ENTEBBE AIRPORT. ON JULY 4, IN
ORDER TO RESCUE THE REMAINING 100 HOSTAGES THAT HAD
BEEN HIJACKED IN THE AIR FRANCE AIRBUS
AND TAKEN TO UGANDA, ISRAEL SENT A SMALL MILITARY
FORCE TO ENTEBBE AIRPORT. THIS FORCE SUCCEEDED IN
RESCUING THOSE HOSTAGES AND RETURNING TO ISRAEL. THREE
OF THE HOSTAGES, ONE ISRAELI SOLDIER, SEVEN OF THE
TERRORISTS, AND A NUMBER OF UGANDAN SOLDIERS WERE
APPARENTLY KILLED, AND SEVERAL UGANDAN AIRCRAFT WERE
DESTROYED. THE ISRAELI FORCE WAS ON THE GROUND FOR AN
HOUR AND A HALF AND DEPARTED FOR ISRAEL AS SOON AS
IT WAS POSSIBLE TO DO SO IN SAFETY.

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ISRAEL'S ACTION IN RESCUING THE HOSTAGES NECESSARILY
INVOLVED A TEMPORARY BREACH OF THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY
OF UGANDA. NORMALLY SUCH A BREACH WOULD BE IMPERMISSIBLE
UNDER THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS.
HOWEVER, THERE IS A WELL-ESTABLISHED RIGHT TO USE
LIMITED FORCE FOR THE PROTECTION OF ONE'S OWN NATIONALS
FROM AN IMMINENT THREAT OF INJURY OR DEATH IN A
SITUATION WHERE THE STATE IN WHOSE TERRITORY THEY

ARE LOCATED EITHER IS UNWILLING OR UNABLE TO PROTECT THEM. THE RIGHT, FLOWING FROM THE RIGHT OF SELF-DEFENSE, IS LIMITED TO SUCH USE OF FORCE AS IS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE TO PROTECT THREATENED NATIONALS FROM INJURY.

THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS RIGHT TO PROTECT NATIONALS WERE CLEARLY MET IN THE ENTEBBE CASE. ISRAEL HAD GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE THAT AT THE TIME IT ACTED ISRAELI NATIONALS WERE IN IMMINENT DANGER OF EXECUTION BY THE HIJACKERS. MOREOVER, THE ACTIONS NECESSARY TO RELEASE THE ISRAELI LIVES HAD NOT BEEN TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA, NOR WAS THERE A REASONABLE EXPECTATION SUCH ACTIONS WOULD BE TAKEN. IN FACT, THERE IS SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA COOPERATED WITH AND AIDED THE HIJACKERS. A NUMBER OF THE RELEASED HOSTAGES HAVE PUBLICLY RELATED HOW THE UGANDAN AUTHORITIES ALLOWED SEVERAL ADDITIONAL TERRORISTS TO REINFORCE THE ORIGINAL GROUP AFTER THE PLANE LANDED, PERMITTED THEM TO RECEIVE ADDITIONAL ARMS AND EXPLOSIVES, PARTICIPATED IN GUARDING THE HOSTAGES, AND ACCORDING TO SOME ACCOUNTS, EVEN TOOK OVER SOLE CUSTODY OF SOME OR ALL OF THE PASSENGERS TO ALLOW THE HIJACKERS TO REST. THE EASE AND SUCCESS OF THE ISRAELI EFFORT TO FREE THE HOSTAGES FURTHER SUGGESTS THAT THE UGANDA AUTHORITIES COULD HAVE OVERPOWERED THE HIJACKERS AND RELEASED THE HOSTAGES IF THEY HAD REALLY DESIRED TO DO SO.

THE APPARENT SUPPORT GIVEN TO THE HIJACKERS BY THE UGANDAN AUTHORITIES CAUSES US TO QUESTION WHETHER UGANDA LIVED UP TO ITS INTERNATIONAL LEGAL OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE HAGUE CONVENTION. THE RIGHTS OF A STATE CARRY WITH THEM IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH WERE UNCLASSIFIED

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NOT MET BY UGANDA IN THIS CASE. THE ISRAELI MILITARY ACTION WAS LIMITED TO THE SOLE OBJECTIVE OF EXTRICATING THE PASSENGERS AND CREW, AND TERMINATED WHEN THAT OBJECTIVE WAS ACCOMPLISHED. THE FORCE EMPLOYED WAS LIMITED TO WHAT WAS NECESSARY FOR THE RESCUE OF THE PASSENGERS AND CREW.

NOTR BY OC/T: NOT PASSED OAU POSTTS.

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 USIE-00

SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

SCCT-01 SAM-01 /106 W

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O P 130213Z JUL 76

FM USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8260

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY COTONOU PRIORITY

USLO PEKING PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

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DEPT PLS PASS OAU POSTS AS DESIRED

THAT ISRAEL MIGHT HAVE SECURED THE RELEASE OF ITS
NATIONALS BY COMPLYING WITH THE TERRORISTS' DEMANDS CANNOT
ALTER THESE CONCLUSIONS. NO STATE IS
REQUIRED TO YIELD CONTRL OVER PERSONS IN LAWFUL CUSTODY
IN ITS TERRITORY UNDER CRIMINAL CHARGES. MOREOVER, IT WOULD
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BE A SELF-DEFEATING AND DANGEROUS POLICY TO RELEASE PRISONERS,
CONVICTED IN SOME CASES OF EARLIER ACTS OF TERRORISM, IN

ORDER TO ACCEDE TO THE DEMANDS OF THE TERRORISTS.

IT SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED THAT THIS ASSESSMENT OF THE LEGALITY OF ISRAELI ACTIONS DEPENDS HEAVILY ON THE UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF THIS SPECIFIC CASE. IN PARTICULAR, THE EVIDENCE IS STRONG THAT GIVEN THE ATTITUDE OF THE UGANDAN AUTHORITIES, COOPERATION WITH OR RELIANCE ON THEM IN RESCUING THE PASSENGERS AND CREW WAS IMPRACTICABLE. IT IS TO BE HOPED THAT THESE UNIQUE CIRCUMSTANCES WILL NOT ARISE IN THE FUTURE. WE OF COURSE STRONGLY DEFEND THE CONCEPT OF NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. MOREOVER, THE UNITED STATES DEPLORES THE LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY AT ENTebbe AIRPORT AND EXTENDS ITS SYMPATHY TO THOSE FAMILIES WHO WERE BEREAVED BY EVENTS ORIGINATING IN ACTS OF TERRORISM THEY NEITHER SUPPORTED NOR CONDONED.

BUT, THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION BELIEVES VERY STRONGLY THAT THIS COUNCIL SHOULD ADDRESS ITSELF TO THE CAUSES OF INCIDENTS SUCH AS THAT WHICH OCCURRED LAST WEEK IN UGANDA. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS COUNCIL SHOULD ONCE AGAIN TAKE POSITIVE ACTION TO PUT AN END TO SUCH SENSELESS VIOLENCE. WE BELIEVE THE UNITED NATIONS SHOULD DO EVERYTHING WITHIN ITS POWER TO INSURE AGAINST A RECURRENCE OF THIS BRUTAL, CALLOUS AND SENSELESS INTERNATIONAL CRIME OF HIJACKING -- THE CRIME WHICH GAVE RISE TO THE ISRAELI ACTION.

AT THE VERY LEAST, THIS COUNCIL SHOULD IMMEDIATELY RECORD ITS COLLECTIVE VIEW THAT INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM -- AND SPECIFICALLY HIJACKING -- MUST BE STOPPED. THERE IS AMPLE PRECEDENT FOR TAKING SUCH ACTION. THE UNITED NATIONS HAS SPOKEN OUT STRONGLY AGAINST HIJACKING AND INTERFERENCE WITH INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION. ON 9 SEPTEMBER 1970 THE SECURITY COUNCIL ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS RESOLUTION 286 APPEALING "FOR THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF ALL PASSENGERS AND CREW WITHOUT EXCEPTION, HELD AS A RESULT OF HIJACKINGS". IT CALLED ON STATES "TO TAKE ALL POSSIBLE LEGAL STEPS TO PREVENT FURTHER HIJACKINGS OR ANY OTHER INTERFERENCE WITH INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AIR TRAVEL." LATER IN THE AUTUMN OF 1970 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTED ITS DETAILED RESOLUTION

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2645 (XXV) CONDEMNING "WITHOUT EXCEPTION WHATSOEVER, ALL ACTS OF AERIAL HIJACKING". THE RESOLUTION, WHICH THE ASSEMBLY ADOPTED BY AN OVERWHELMING VOTE OF 105 IN FAVOR AND NONE AGAINST, WITH EIGHT ABSTENTIONS, FURTHER DECLARED THAT "THE EXPLOITATION OF UNLAWFUL SEIZURE OF AIRCRAFT FOR THE PURPOSE OF TAKING HOSTAGES IS TO BE CONDEMNED", AND IT CALLED FOR EVERY EFFORT TO MAKE A SUCCESS OUT OF THE THEN FORTHCOMING HAGE CONFERENCE NEGOTIATIONS FOR AN ANTI-HIJACKING TREATY.

AGAIN ACTING BY CONSENSUS, THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON 20
JUNE 1972 STATED ITS GRAVE CONCERN "AT THE
THREAT TO THE LIVES OF PASSENGERS AND CREW ARISING FROM
THE HIJACKING OF AIRCRAFT". THE COUNCIL CALLED UPON STATES
"TO DETER AND PREVENT SUCH ACTS AND TO TAKE EFFECTIVE MEASURES
TO DEAL WITH THOSE WHO COMMIT SUCH ACTS."

IN ADDITION, THERE ALREADY EXISTS AN INTERNATIONAL LEGAL
OBLIGATION FOR ALL STATES TO PREVENT TERRORIST ACTS.
THE UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON FRIENDLY RELATIONS AND
COOPERATION AMONG STATES, CONTAINED IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY
RESOLUTION 2625 (XXV), DECLARES: "EVERY STATE HAS THE DUTY
TO REFRAIN FROM ORGANIZING, INSTIGATING, ASSISTING OR PARTICIPATING
IN ACTS OF CIVIL STRIFE OR TERRORIST ACTS IN ANOTHER STATE OR
ACQUIESCING IN ORGANIZED ACTIVITIES WITHIN ITS TERRITORY
DIRECTED TOWARD THE COMMISSION OF SUCH ACTS, WHEN THE
ACTS REFERRED TO IN THE PRESENT PARAGRAPH INVOLVE A THREAT
OR USE OF FORCE".

CONCERNING AIR HIJACKING IN PARTICULAR, TWELVE MEMBERS OF
THIS COUNCIL HAVE RATIFIED THE CONVENTION FOR THE SUPPRESSION
OF UNLAWFUL SEIZURE OF AIRCRAFT BY HIJACKING, SIGNED AT THE
HAGUE ON DECEMBER 16, 1970. OVER HALF THE MEMBERS OF THE INTER-
NATIONAL COMMUNITY HAVE ACCEPTED THIS CONVENTION, INCLUDING
UGANDA AND ISRAEL. THE PURPOSE OF THE HAGUE CONVENTION IS
TO PROMOTE THE SAFETY OF INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION. IT
SEEKS TO DISCOURAGE HIJACKING BY CREATING THE REALISTIC
PROSPECT OF SEVERE TREATMENT BY STATES AGAINST PERSONS HIJACKING
AIRCRAFT.

TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE THE CONVENTION REQUIRES EVERY

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 AF-08 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 SCCT-01 SAM-01 /106 W

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O P 130213Z JUL 76
FM USMISSION USUN NY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8261
INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY COTONOU PRIORITY
USLO PEKING PRIORITY
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CONTRACTING STATE TO MAKE HIJACKING AN OFFENSE
PUNISHABLE BY SEVERE PENALTIES. EACH CONTRACTING
STATE IS ALSO BOUND TO TAKE SUCH MEASURES AS MAY BE
NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH ITS JURISDICTION OVER THE
OFFENSE OF HIJACKING AND ANY OTHER ACT OF VIOLENCE
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AGAINST PASSENGERS OR CREW OF A HIJACKED AIRCRAFT
WHICH COMES WITHIN ITS TERRITORY. ACCORDING TO THE
CONVENTION, A CONTRACTING STATE SHALL TAKE ALL
APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO RESTORE CONTROL OF THE AIRCRAFT
TO ITS LAWFUL COMMANDER. IT MUST ALSO FACILITATE THE
CONTINUATION OF THE JOURNEY OF THE PASSENGERS AND CREW
AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE AND SHALL WITHOUT DELAY RETURN
THE AIRCRAFT AND ITS CARGO TO PERSONS LAWFULLY ENTITLED
TO ITS POSSESSION. FINALLY, IT MUST TAKE THE HIJACKERS
INTO CUSTODY AND EITHER PROSECUTE OR EXTRADITE THEM.

THESE ARE HIGH STANDARDS, BUT THEY ARE REASONABLE
STANDARDS. MY GOVERNMENT DOES NOT BELIEVE THE
GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA HAS LIVED UP TO ITS LEGAL
OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE HAGUE CONVENTION TO WHICH IT
IS A PARTY.

THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT THE UNITED NATIONS

SHOULD GO MUCH FURTHER IN ADDRESSING ITSELF TO THE EVILS OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. IN 1972 WE PROPOSED A DRAFT CONVENTION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, WHICH PROVIDED, INTER ALIA, THAT A SIGNATORY STATE EITHER PROSECUTE PERSONS IN ITS JURISDICTION WHO COMMIT ANY ACTS OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM OR EXTRADITE THEM TO THE STATE IN WHICH THE CRIME WAS COMMITTED. UNFORTUNATELY NOTHING HAS YET COME OF OUR INITIATIVE BECAUSE OF DISAGREEMENT OVER THE DEFINITION OF TERRORISM.

WITH REGARD TO AIR HIJACKING IN PARTICULAR, THE UNITED STATES HAS REPEATEDLY PRESSED IN THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION FOR THE ADOPTION OF AN INDEPENDENT CONVENTION ENABLING STATES PARTIES TO ACT IN CONCERT AGAINST A STATE, EVEN IF NOT A PARTY, THAT HARBORS HIJACKERS OR SABOTEURS OR THAT FAILED TO RETURN AN AIRCRAFT, PASSENGERS OR CREW. WE WILL CONTINUE TO URGE THE ADOPTION OF SUCH A CONVENTION BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT IT COULD PROVIDE FOR WORLD-WIDE ENFORCEMENT OF THE FUNDAMENTAL LEGAL PRINCIPLES REFLECTED IN THE HAGUE CONVENTION.

MR. PRESIDENT, THIS COUNCIL CAN AND SHOULD REAFFIRM
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ITS OWN STAND IN OPPOSITION TO AIR HIJACKING WHICH WAS EXPRESSED IN THE COUNCIL'S CONSENSUS DECISION ON HIJACKING ADOPTED ON JUNE 20, 1972. LET US CONDEMN THE TAKING OF INNOCENT PEOPLE AS HOSTAGES. LET US DEPLORE THE THREAT TO INNOCENT HUMAN LIFE AT THE HANDS OF TERRORISTS. LET US ALSO REAFFIRM OUR DEDICATION TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF EVERY MEMBER STATE. MOST IMPORTANT, LET US TAKE A FIRM STAND AGAINST TERRORIST HIJACKING --ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS THREATS TO PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE WORLD TODAY.

MR. PRESIDENT THESE ARE THE MEASURED AND CONSIDERED VIEWS OF MY GOVERNMENT OF THIS EPISODE, VIEWS WITH WHICH I TOTALLY CONCUR. BUT I ASK YOU AND MY COLLEAGUES HERE TO BEAR WITH ME A FEW MINUTES LONGER FOR I WISH TO MAKE SOME PERSONAL COMMENTS ABOUT THIS EPISODE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE IMAGE OF THE UNITED NATIONS ITSELF AND PARTICULARLY THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

MY TENURE HERE, AS YOU ALL KNOW, HAS BEEN OF VERY SHORT DURATION--APPROXIMATELY FOUR MONTHS. IN THAT PERIOD OF TIME THE SECURITY COUNCIL HAS BEEN IN SESSION ALMOST CONTINUOUSLY. WITH RARE EXCEPTIONS THE ISSUES

BEFORE IT HAVE BEEN EXCLUSIVELY THOS OF THE MIDDLE
EAST , OUTSTANDINGLY, AND SOUTHERN AFIRCA.

TO BY ARAB FRIENDS HERE AND ELSEWHERE, THE UNITED
STATES DELEGATION HAS MADE IT CLEAR ON SEVERAL
OCCASIONS THAT PROBLEMS IN THE MIDDLE EAST ARE BY NO
MEANS TOTALLY ONE-SIDED. EACH OF US, I AM SURE, HAS
INDIVIDUAL PICTURES AND VIVID IMAGES THAT DWELL IN OUR MINDS
WHENEVER MATTERS CONCERNING THE MIDDLE EAST
CONFRONT US. IN MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE, THERE IS
OUTSTANDINGLY A VISIT TO A REFUGEE CAMP SOUTHWEST OF

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SAM-01 USIE-00 /106 W
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O P 130213Z JUL 76
FM USMISSION USUN NEWYORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8262
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
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AMMAN WHERE DECENT PEOPLE WERE LIVING UNDER VERY TRYING CONDITIONS
ONLY WITH THE HELP OF UNRWA, HAVING BEEN EXPELLED FROM THEIR
HOMES IN SOME CASES NOT ONCE BUT TWICE, IN 1948 AND 1967.
AND ANOTHER PICTURE WHICH WILL NEVER LEAVE MY MIND:
THE CONDITION OF KARAMEH AFTER THE RAID ON THAT VILLAGE.
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ON THE OTHER HAND THERE IS AN EQUALLY VIVID PICTURE OF
JEWS WITH ACCESS TO PRAY AT THE WAILING WALL. OR, EVEN MORE
VIVID, THOSE HORRORS OF BUCHENWALD, DACHAU, AND AUSCHWITZ.

TO MY AFRICAN FRIENDS HERE AND ELSEWHERE: ON THE ISSUE OF
THE LIBERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, MY GOVERNMENT HAS PUT
ITSELF SQUARELY ON THE SIDE OF THOSE WHO SEEK MAJORITY RULE
WITH THE DETERMINATION THAT IT BE ACHIEVED BY PEACEFUL MEANS.
I AM HAPPY THAT POLICY HAS BEEN ADOPTED WHILE I AM
HERE.

BUT TO MY ARAB AND AFRICAN FRIENDS I SAY HERE AND NOW THERE MAY
HAVE BEEN MIXED PICTURES CONCERNING SOME OF THE QUESTIONS THAT
HAVE CONFRONTED THE SECURITY COUNCIL IN THE IMMEDIATE PAST,
BUT TO MY MIND THERE IS NO DOUBT ON THIS ONE, NOT ONE IOTA.

WHY DO I SAY THAT SO STRONGLY AND SO DEEPLY? YES,
THERE WAS A TEMPORARY BREACH OF THE TERRITORIAL SOVEREIGNTY OF
UGANDA AND LET US HOPE THAT THAT NEVER HAS TO HAPPEN AGAIN.
BUT THERE IS ANOTHER VALUE, ANOTHER JUDGMENT WHICH SURPASSES
IT IN IMPORTANCE.

LIKE MOST OF YOU I HAVE NEVER BEEN THE HEAD OF A NATION
NOR HAD THE RESPONSIBILITIES THEREOF BUT I HAVE BEEN ACCOUNT-
ABLE FOR THE SAFETY AND PROTECTION OF 12 MILLION PEOPLE IN
THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA. DURING THAT PERIOD
OF TIME, EVEN THOUGH HARDLY UNDER THE SAME CIRCUMSTANCES,
I KNOW, THERE WERE SEVERAL OCCASIONS IN WHICH INCIDENTS
CONCERNING THE SAFETY, THE PROTECTION, AND THE LIVES OF
PENNSYLVANIANS CAME TO MY OFFICE. ACTION THEREON HAD TO BE
DECIDED BY ME, THE ULTIMATE EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY IN THE
COMMONWEALTH. THAT WAS MY FIRST AND FOREMOST RESPONSIBILITY.

IN THIS EPISODE, THAT RESPONSIBILITY LAY WITH THE
GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL TO PROTECT HERE CITIZENS, HOSTAGES

THREATENED WITH THEIR VERY LIVES, IN MORTAL DANGER IN A
FAR AWAY PLACE. THOSE INNOCENT PEOPLE WERE SUBJECT TO THE
TERRORIST HIJACKING OF THE AIRPLANE ON WHICH THEY WERE
RIGHTFULLY FLYING
AND FURTHER SUBJECTED TO A SIX-DAY TERRORIZING EXPERIENCE
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IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY, SEEING OTHER PERSONS FREED WHILE
THE JEWS WERE FORCED TO REMAIN. SUBJECTED AT GUNPOINT TO
SEVEN HIJACKER TERRORISTS WHO KNOW NO LAW. AWARE THAT THE
ONLY POSSIBILITY OF FREEDOM CAME FROM A GOVERNMENT WHOSE
HEAD HAD REJOICED AT THE SLAYING OF ISRAELI ATHLETES AT
MUNICH, CALLED FOR THE EXTINCTION IF ISRAEL, AND
PRAISED THAT MADMAN HITLER WHO HAD ON HIS EVIL CONSCIENCE,
IF HE EVER HAD A CONSCIENCE AT ALL, THE MURDER OF 6
MILLION JEWS.

UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL INVOKED
ONE OF THE MOST REMARKABLE RESCUE MISSIONS IN HISTORY, A
COMBINATION OF GUTS AND BRAINS THAT HAS SELDOM IF EVER
BEEN SURPASSED. IT ELECTRIFIED MILLIONS EVERYWHERE, AND I
CONFESS I WAS ONE OF THEM.

JUSTIFIED BECAUSE INNOCENT DECENT PEOPLE HAVE A RIGHT
TO LIVE AND BE RESCUED FROM TERRORIST WHO RECOGNIZE NO
LAW AND ARE READY TO KILL IF THEIR DEMANDS ARE NOT MET.

WHO HAS A CONSCIENCE ABOUT THIS? WE SHOULD. EVERY SINGLE
ONE OF US. I ASSUME THAT EVERY ONE OF US WANTS TO DO ALL IN
OUR POWER TO AVOID SUCH EPISODES IN THE FUTURE. THIS IS ONE EPISODE
IN A SERIES OF CASES OF HIJACKINGS BY TERRORISTS -- ABOUT
WHICH WE CAN DO A GREAT DEAL. I BELIEVE WE CAN WIPE SUCH
EPISODES OFF THE FACE OF THIS EARTH.

AS MY GOVERNMENT HAS STATED IN THE MESSAGE I HAVE JUST
FINISHED DELIVERING -- WE CAN DO THIS, WE MUST DO THIS AND
THEN AND ONLY THEN WILL OUR CONSCIENCES BE CLAR FOR THE FUTURE.
THEY WILL NEVER BE CLEAR FOR THE PAST. UNQTE.
SCRANTON

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED OAU POSTS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT HIJACKING, TEXT, RESCUE OPERATIONS, INVASIONS, MEETINGS, SPEECHES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976USUNN02849
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760268-1113
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: schaeafaj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 FEB 2004 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <20 SEP 2004 by schaeafaj>
Review Markings:

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04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECURITY COUNCIL: UGANDA RESCUE
TAGS: PFOR, UG, IS, US, UNSC, (SCRANTON, WILLIAM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006